

## **KECSAC Summary of Work**

KECSAC is dedicated to helping students in state agency programs reach proficiency. In order to facilitate that process, KECSAC has implemented a program improvement plan, with support from the Kentucky Board of Education. Over the last year, it was recommended that each program complete a comprehensive improvement plan. In the upcoming academic year, all KECSAC programs will be required to develop and implement a plan for program improvement based on CATS data, internal assessments and site visit reports. This plan shall serve as an academic guide to enable the program to reach proficiency.

KECSAC continues to work with programs that are identified as low-performing/special needs based on academic monitoring site visits from Program Improvement Specialists. In the coming year, KECSAC will provide direct technical support to these programs through the use of Educational Training Specialists (ETS). KECSAC has proposed 60 days for the ETS to work with identified programs to provide them with the necessary technical support (e.g., differentiated learning, analyzing assessment data, developing lesson plans, incorporating constructive, effective classroom behavior management, etc.).

In addition, over the last year KECSAC has expanded the number of contracted days with our Program Improvement Specialists from 55 days to 60 days each (total of 180 days). During the coming year, this will provide the opportunity for follow-up visits to programs that have specific identified needs.

KECSAC programs serve a very unique population of students. In the development of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP), our programs reviewed and analyzed CATS data. However, the data provided did not accurately reflect the student needs in the individual programs. Thus, KECSAC is currently in the investigation phase of a two year pilot program effort to identify and implement a state-wide, standardized assessment for students who are enrolled in KECSAC programs. This assessment would be used to measure the progress of individual students during the time they are enrolled in a KECSAC program. We believe this analysis will provide programs with an accurate reflection of their impact on student learning. The KECSAC Interagency Advisory Group is actively involved in the exploration of this project. In addition, KECSAC programs across the State have been surveyed and will continue to be involved in the development of this project.

Over the following year, KECSAC will begin implementing unannounced site visits to programs that are identified as low-performing by the Program Improvement Specialists.

During the past year, KECSAC has engaged in discussions with KDE staff in regards to student tracking. In an effort to help identify where students are transitioning to after

leaving a KECSAC program, KDE has been supportive in working with us to use the newly created student identifiers to track our students. We expect this resource to be available during the upcoming academic year.

In addition to the ongoing services being provided by funding from the General Assembly, KECSAC will actively pursue outside funding over the next year in an effort to identify support for assisting students who are transitioning from KECSAC programs to A-1 schools or to life beyond secondary education.

While KECSAC programs and goals are directly related to each of the Kentucky Standards and Indicators for School Improvement, over the last year our Program Improvement visits have placed specific emphasis on classroom evaluation and assessment (Standard Two), school culture (Standard Four), Student, Family and Community Support (Standard Five), and comprehensive and effective planning (Standard Nine). Program Improvement Specialists have continued to monitor the educational programs serving state agency children.

KECSAC continues to serve a growing number of state agency children. The allocation for state agency children has remained the same for the past eight years while the cost of educating these students continues to rise. Over the previous year, KECSAC has worked with various local and state legislators to introduce legislation related to the funding process for KECSAC programs. The proposed legislation will implement a mechanism for annual incremental increases equal to those approved for SEEK. In addition, other legislation has been introduced that will require the General Assembly to provide funding for the full cost of educating state agency children beyond the SEEK allocation.